

**Standing Rules of the Board of Directors of
Fort Western Unit 183, Inc.
Last Revised July 23, 2024**

I. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. The President

1. Shall call and preside at meetings of the Board of Directors and the membership.
2. Shall function as the general executive and administrative officer of the Unit subject to the general direction of the Board of Directors.
3. Shall have the right to participate in all votes.
4. Shall appoint committees that are necessary to perform the functions of the organization; appoint all Committee Chairpersons (after ascertaining their willingness to serve, and after consultation with the chairperson, appoint the members of the committees) and submit the same to the Board of Directors for ratification and approval.
5. Shall be an ex-officio member of all committees with the power to vote.
6. Shall be permitted to delegate any powers held by the President to the Vice-President.
7. Shall prepare and submit to the Board of Directors an agenda for each regular meeting.

B. The Vice-President

1. Shall assume all powers and duties of the President in the absence or inability of the President to act as determined by the majority of the Board of Directors.
2. Shall assist the President in the administration of the Unit affairs.

C. The Secretary

1. Shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and transmit them to the Unit Webmaster for permanent posting on the Unit website. (1/27/20)
2. Shall transmit updated files of the Unit Bylaws and Standing Rules to the Unit Webmaster for posting on the Unit website. (1/27/20)

3. Shall furnish copies of the Bylaws and Standing Rules to new members of the board upon their election to Board membership if such new members are not able to access them on the Unit website. (3/18/13)
4. Shall handle correspondence of the Unit as directed by the Board of Directors or elected officers of the Unit.
5. Shall furnish to the Chairperson of the Election Committee a complete and current roster of valid members for use in conducting the annual Unit election of members to the Board of Directors. (3/18/13)
6. Shall ensure that the required quadrennial filing with the Texas Secretary of State is made in a timely manner.

D. The Treasurer

1. Shall be responsible for ensuring that all funds due to the unit are deposited in a federally insured bank or credit union.
2. Unless such duty is assigned to a Unit Bookkeeper by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall keep an account of all receipts and expenditures together with such supporting evidence as may be required under the Internal Revenue Code or otherwise normally be considered prudent. These accounts are to be kept in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, as applicable to not-for-profit organizations. (3/27/17 and 1/27/20)
3. Unless such duty is assigned to a Unit Bookkeeper by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall periodically furnish a full statement of the financial condition of the Unit to the President so that a permanent file can be kept of the financial records of the Unit. The treasurer's report, upon acceptance, shall be posted on the Unit website. (3/27/17 and 1/27/20)
4. Unless such duty is assigned to a Unit Bookkeeper by the Board of Directors, shall be prepared to submit all records and books, whether prepared by the Treasurer or a Unit Bookkeeper, for review by the Board of Directors. (1/27/20)
5. The Board of Directors shall appoint a unit member to perform an annual review of the records and books. The objective of the review is to identify potential improvements in operations or discrepancies in the accounts. (7/23/24)
6. Shall disburse all funds by check except as authorized by the Board of Directors.
7. Shall require on all checks the signature of one of the following: President, Vice-President, or Treasurer. (3/27/17)

8. Unless such duty is assigned to a Unit Bookkeeper by the Board of Directors, shall present all bills of an extraordinary nature to the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors for approval of payment.

II. COMMITTEES

A. Standing Committees (3/27/17 and 1/27/2020)

The President, with the advice and consent of the Board, shall appoint the following standing committees, and the chairpersons thereof, as provided for in Article 4, as soon as possible after the election of the President, but in no event later than February 1:

1. Executive Committee
2. Tournament Committee
3. Facilities Management Committee
4. Membership Committee
5. Publicity and Publications Committee
6. Education Committee
7. Studio Decorations Committee
8. Hospitality Committee

B. Committee Powers

The duties and responsibilities of these committees are outlined as follows:

1. Executive Committee

- a. Shall have the full power of the Board of Directors to act in an emergency subject to review by the full Board at the next regular meeting of the board. Any expenditure by the Executive Committee in an emergency situation shall be for not more than \$500 and shall be made only from funds not previously committed by the full Board of Directors. (3/18/13)
- b. Shall have the power to act with all authority of the full Board of Directors in the event of the absence of a quorum of the Board of Directors at a regularly called and properly noticed meeting of the Board. (3/18/13)
- c. The members of the Executive Committee shall be the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, the immediate past president, and one other member of the Board of Directors selected by mutual agreement of the other members of the Committee. If any two of the above-described persons are the same individual, another member of the Board of Directors may be added by mutual agreement. If under any of the above circumstances, there is no mutual agreement on the additional member of the Board of Directors to be added, the Executive Committee shall operate without the addition of such a person. (3/18/13)

2. Tournament Committee
 - a. Shall plan all sectional and regional tournaments allocated to the Unit as outlined in the Guide for Tournaments adopted by the Board of Directors.
 - b. Shall make recommendations to the Board for the approval of the Board the following details for each tournament:
 - (1) Card fees
 - (2) Entertainment, food, beverages, and prize budget
 - (3) Rental costs
 - (4) Professional lecturers (09/07/96)
 - (5) A Tournament Manager
 - c. Shall ensure that schedules of all tournaments are submitted to the ACBL and that each tournament is sanctioned by ACBL. (3/27/17)
3. Facilities Management Committee
 - a. Shall supervise all housekeeping duties of the studio.
 - b. Shall act as a liaison between the Board and all suppliers to the studio.
 - c. Shall act as a liaison between the Board and all parties that rent the studio for activities to be held there.
4. Membership Committee
 - a. Shall send a welcome letter and a free play to each new member of the Unit. (3/27/17)
5. Publicity and Publications Committee
 - a. Shall publish bulletins or newsletters subject to the direction and control of the Board. Publishing will occur as long as it is economically feasible. The publication will report tournament and Unit game results, announce upcoming tournament and Unit games, and include other information that is judged to be of general interest to the membership. The publication will meet generally accepted standards of good taste and rest within the bounds of accuracy and fair comment.
 - b. Shall prepare articles for local papers of general interest to the public.

6. Education Program Committee (06/10/96)
 - a. Shall plan and supervise the teaching program and novice games (0-20 points).
 - b. All requests to teach classes at the Fort Worth Facility should be submitted to the Education Chair. The Education Chair will review each request and make a determination. (3/27/17)

7. Studio Decorations Committee

- a. Shall decorate the facility for seasons/holidays. (10/2/17)

8. Hospitality Committee

Shall provide food for Unit Championship games held at the Studio and shall provide food and door prizes for the Unit Christmas party. (1-26-19)

- C. Special and Ad Hoc Committees

Special and ad hoc committees may be established to handle specific duties not delegated to the standing committees. The President will appoint the members subject to Board approval.

1. Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee

- a. Shall recommend amendments to the Bylaws to the Board for submission to the membership for approval. (3/18/13)
 - b. Shall recommend to the Board changes in the Standing Rules of the Board of Directors.

2. Nominating Committee

- a. Shall function as provided for in the Bylaws of Fort Western Duplicate Bridge Unit 183, Inc.
 - b. The committee shall be chaired by a member of the Board of Directors and shall consist of at least three members (including the Chairperson). No more than half the members shall be current members of the Board. No outgoing member of the Board may serve. (3/27/17)
 - c. Shall determine that those nominated are willing and able to serve effectively as directors if elected.

3. Elections Committee

Shall recommend to the Board for approval a plan for the election of the Board of Directors. Shall supervise the election. Shall report the results of the vote to the Board and membership at the annual membership meeting. (3/27/17) In the event that no fall tournament is held, then a locally rated tournament shall be held in November at which time the election shall take place. A locally rated tournament is defined as an event consisting of at least two sessions.

4. Tournament Coordinator

- a. Shall do long-term scheduling of tournaments in coordination with district and national representatives.
- b. Shall do tournament site selection and contract negotiations.

5. Charity

Shall schedule charity events in coordination with national representatives.

6. Studio Manager (3/27/17)

Shall monitor and order Studio bridge supplies as needed. Shall obtain prior approval from the President for any purchase exceeding \$500. Shall apprise the Board of Directors about computer requirements.

7. District Representative

Shall serve as the voting representative at district meetings. Shall report to the Board of Directors about such meetings.

8. GNT and NAP Coordinator

Shall be responsible for coordinating the annual Grand National Teams and North American Pairs. The responsibilities include, but are not limited to, scheduling, providing hospitality, directing, and publicizing.

9. Scorecard Columnist

Shall write a column for each issue of the District 16 Scorecard.

III. ANNUAL MEETING

As required by the Bylaws, the annual meeting of the membership for the election of members to the Board of Directors of the Unit shall be held at the annual fall tournament. In the event that no fall tournament is held, the meeting shall be held in November at a locally rated tournament. See the previous definition for “locally rated tournament.”

IV. UNIT AFFAIRS

- A. The Unit will participate in the ACBL Mini-McKenney Medallion Program. (03/01/77)
- B. The Unit shall absorb the cost of the ACBL report for all Unit games. (08/07/90)
- C. Upon submission of proper documentation, a director or Hospitality Committee member may be reimbursed up to \$200 for food provided for the game. (9/15/14 and 1-26-19)
- D. Fort Worth Facility (Studio)
 1. Explanation of terms (7/23/24)
 - a. Unit - An association of players that has been granted a charter by ACBL. The Unit is described geographically by the ACBL.
 - b. Club- Any individual ACBL member, group of ACBL members, or non-affiliated organization (such as a country club, a fraternal or industrial organization, or a church or other religious group) may apply for a sanction which must be granted by their respective Unit. When the Unit issues a sanction, the sanction holder is given the right to conduct bridge games and award club masterpoints. The Unit may also grant sanctions for Unit games.
 - c. Ft. Worth Facility (Studio) - the home of Unit 183
 - As of 2024, the Unit has 3 club owners/sanctions operating at the Fort Worth Facility:
 - Steve Shirey with 4 sanctions
 - Lorraine Little with 1 sanction
 - Kathy Coleman with 1 sanction
 - No other entity owns a sanction and meets regularly at the Fort Worth Unit facility.
 - There is no sanction for a "Ft. Worth Club". It does not exist.
 - There are 21 sanctions available (3 per day: morning, afternoon, and night) and 15 are unclaimed as of 2024.
 2. There shall be a set of rules for club operators, directors, and other people using the Studio. (3/27/17)
 3. The Board shall set Studio rental charges for all games. Unit rent due shall be computed based on the number of paid entries. Currently, Studio rent is fifteen

(15) dollars per table, except for limited games the fee for which will be set by the Board. ,(11/7/23)

4. The studio will be available to teachers to conduct lessons on a rent-free basis in order to promote participation in the game. (7/23/24)
5. Studio rent shall be due no later than the second Monday of the reporting month. Rent paid after the due date will accrue a late fee of \$10.00 per week until the rent is paid. (7/28/14)
6. Any club manager found delinquent in Studio rent and/or ACBL fees for more than forty-five (45) days after the tenth day of the reporting month, without prior permission of the Unit Board of Directors, shall lose his/her Studio space. (08/07/90)
7. Failure to hold six consecutive games without the approval of the Unit Board of Directors shall result in the Studio space being subject to reassignment. (08/07/90)
8. The Board of Directors may schedule Unit or Special Events games at any time in keeping with proper sanctions and the best interest of the Unit. The owner/director of a regular game that is to be preempted by a Unit Game has the right of first refusal to direct the Unit Game. (03/18/13)
9. The Board shall make all decisions concerning which clubs may operate games at the Studio, and when they may hold their sessions. The Board shall also decide when and if it will terminate a club owner's right to operate any game or games at the Studio.
10. Whenever the Board determines that it will make a session available for play, it shall post a notice on the Unit website notifying members of the opportunity and shall fairly consider all responses. (1/27/20)
11. All directors shall be guided by the ACBL Handbook of Rules and Regulations.

12. For any Unit game held at the Studio that does not make (i.e., fewer than three tables) the Director shall be paid \$20. (9/15/14) For a game of three tables or more, Directors shall be paid according to the following fee schedule: (3/18/13)

ables	ee \$	ables	ee \$	ables	ee \$
3.0	8	5.0	10	7.0	62
3.5	8	5.5	13	7.5	65
4.0	8	6.0	16	8.0	68
4.5	8	6.5	19	8.5	71
5.0	8	7.0	22	9.0	74
5.5	8	7.5	25	9.5	77
6.0	8	8.0	28	10.0	80
6.5	8	8.5	31	10.5	83
7.0	8	9.0	34	11.0	86
7.5	8	9.5	37	11.5	89
8.0	8	10.0	40	12.0	92
8.5	11	10.5	43	12.5	95
9.0	14	11.0	46	13.0	98
9.5	17	11.5	49	13.5	101
10.0	20	12.0	52	14.0	104
10.5	23	12.5	55	14.5	107
11.0	26	13.0	58	15.0	110
11.5	29	13.5	61	15.5	113
12.0	32	14.0	64	16.0	116
12.5	35	14.5	67		
13.0	38	15.0	70		
13.5	41	15.5	73		
14.0	44	16.0	76		
14.5	47	16.5	79		
15.0	50				
15.5	53				
16.0	56				
16.5	59				

13. Winners at all Unit games held at the Studio will get free plays that can be used only at future Unit games held at the Studio. “Winners” means the highest scoring pair in each direction in each section in a pairs game and the winning team in a Swiss game. The game director must break any ties and is free to use any fair method. (10/2/17)
14. For any Unit-level NAP or GNT qualifier, the game director shall receive a fee per session calculated in the same manner as set forth immediately above for Unit games. (3/27/17)
15. Unit 183 game directors holding games away from the Studio may use the Studio’s dealing machine. The fee is five dollars (\$5) per session, which may be waived on a case-by-case basis by the Board. (6/26/17)

16. Any player who smokes or vapes in the back of the studio must do so at least fifty (50) feet from the building. Smoking or vaping in front of the building is not permitted. Any player who violates this policy shall be immediately suspended from play. For a first offense, the suspension limit is thirty (30) days; for a second offense, six (6) months. (7/24/17)
17. Game directors at the Studio are strongly encouraged to adopt the following cell phone policy:

A player who will need to accept an incoming call during a session should set their phone to vibrate and give it to the game director. A player who makes an outgoing call or accepts an incoming call during a bridge session in a room where a game is being played will be penalized one-quarter board; for a second violation during the same session, the penalty will be an additional one-half board. The same penalties will be imposed for unattended phones that ring during a session. (10/2/17)
18. Except for kitchen utensils and dishes, the Unit will accept donations and loans of furniture, appliances, decor, wall hangings, etc. only with the prior approval of the Board. (10/2/17)
19. Except for seasonal and holiday decorations, furniture, wall hangings, and other décor are to remain in place without addition or deletion except with the prior approval of the board. (10/2/17)

E. Unit Games and Special Events

1. Appointment of directors, Studio rent, entry fees, and prizes for all Unit-sponsored events at the Studio shall be set by the Board. (3/18/13)
2. Any game at the Studio may be preempted for Unit functions without offering payment to the owner of the game.
3. The Unit Game Director, subject to direction and approval of the Board, shall plan and conduct the Unit Game and Unit championship events.
4. The board of directors shall plan the Unit's special events. They will coordinate with the director of the Unit Game in the planning and conduct of all Unit-sponsored special events.

F. Tournaments

1. The Board shall set tournament card fees based on the tournament committee's recommendation.
2. At **regional tournaments**, rooms and/or free plays shall be awarded for significant service supporting the tournament. In the event one of these persons does not make use of a room award, that person shall instead receive unlimited free plays for the entire tournament. The Tournament Chairperson may award additional free plays at his or her discretion. (3/24)

Role	Room Nights	Free Plays
Tournament Coordinator / Chairperson		All Games
Partnership / Hospitality Chairperson	All Nights	
Caddy Chairperson		All Games
Photographer / Bulletin Editor	All Nights	
Preparer of Cards for Pairs Games	Mon-Fri	

3. At **sectional tournaments**, free-plays shall be awarded as shown below. (3/24)

Role	Free Plays
Tournament Coordinator / Chairperson	All Games
Partnership / Hospitality Chairperson	2
Photographer	All Games

4. At all tournaments, rooms and free plays are non-transferable. (3/27/17)
5. Free plays shall be issued in advance of the tournament. (09/07/96)
6. Caddies shall be paid \$30.00 per session except for the last session. Each caddy shall be paid \$50.00 for working the final tournament session. (06/20/07)
7. Each tournament lecturer will receive \$50.00 per lecture presentation. (07/23)
8. Any club in the Unit that closes during a Regional or Sectional tournament run by the Unit shall be reimbursed by the Unit. The club shall receive \$50 for each regularly scheduled club session for which the club closes. For this purpose, a regularly scheduled club session is scheduled to be in play every week. A session that includes more than one game (e.g., an open game and a limited game) will count as only one session. (3/18/22)

G. GNT and NAP (08/01)

1. Any member of Unit 183 in good standing, who either (1) qualifies at the Unit 183 NAP or GNT event or (2) qualifies at another Unit's NAP or GNT event and has a good reason for not qualifying at the Unit 183 event, or (3) plays at the District level in a flight that did not require qualification at the Unit level, shall have District level table fees paid by Unit 183. (3-18-13 and 1-26-19) The member must notify the Unit GNT-NAP Coordinator of the intent to play by the deadline date.
2. GNT: Any Unit 183 member in good standing who, having fulfilled H-1, qualifies at the District level shall receive a \$300.00 (3/18/13) stipend to defray expenses at the National level. The member must notify the GNT coordinator of his/her intent to play before the deadline date. The player must attend the National Tournament and play in the GNT before reimbursement will be made. (3/18/13)
3. NAP: Any Unit 183 member in good standing who, having fulfilled H-1, qualifies at the District level, shall receive a \$300.00 (3/18/13) stipend to defray expenses at the National level. The member must notify the coordinator of his/her intent to play before the deadline date. The player must attend the National Tournament and play in the NAP before reimbursement will be made. (3/18/13)

H. Sale of Bridge-related Items

Only Bridge-related items may be sold at the studio and tournaments. All items will require prior board approval before being offered for sale. (11/21/07)

V. SECONDARY TO BYLAWS

This document is subservient to the Corporate Charter and adopted Bylaws of Fort Western Unit 183, Inc., and anything contained herein that is contradictory or repugnant to said charter or Bylaws is null and void and without force.

VI. AMENDMENTS

Any provision or provisions of this document may be changed at any time by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at a regularly constituted meeting.